1988/1989 ANNUAL REPORT

THE SOCIAL PLANNING & RESEARCH COUNCIL of Hamilton & District

A United Way Member Agency

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The mission of the Social Planning and Research Council is directly related to the fundamental belief that communities have the capacity and responsibility to identify and resolve problems which diminish the quality of life of their citizens. Implicit within this belief is the notion that all community members should have the opportunity to participate in this problem-solving process.

The SPRC is committed to the principle that the most effective responses to community problems arise from the development of an informed consensus among the various sectors that make up the community – a consensus about both the nature of the problems and the most appropriate solutions. The SPRC also believes that the most effective responses to community problems are based upon the mobilization of people and resources into community-based organizations.

These beliefs provide the foundation for the social research projects and community development programs which form the core of SPRC activities. Major Council initiatives during the past year have centred on affordable housing, child care issues and the problems of "street kids". These projects and our other activities are described more fully in the Executive Director's Report.

From the perspective of our Board of Directors, one of the more important activities during this past year has been a re-examination of the Council's role in the community; our project and program priorities, as well as our internal organization structure and procedures. This evaluation is part of a longer range strategic planning exercise directed at ensuring that our operations and our focus continue to evolve to meet changing community needs as we enter the 1990's.

While our long-range plans are still being refined, our key volunteers have affirmed that the current broad base of representation on our Board of Directors is a primary strength of the SPRC. We have concluded that greater priority should be placed on our community development efforts – particularly with respect to working with community groups. We are also considering establishment of a "Futures Committee" to concentrate upon the identification and analysis of

longer term trends which will affect community life.

In an operating sense, the past year has been relatively stable. We are completing our second year of a three-year grant of operating funds from the United Way, our major funder. As well, we have been able to attract a higher level of project funding which has allowed us to expand the quantity and quality of our work in areas of priority to the Council.

We were sorry to lose our able and valued Research Assistant with the resignation of Angela Houser. Rosemary Trowbridge has recently joined our staff to fill that gap and she is already making an important contribution to our research program.

All of us involved with the Council were saddened by the death during the past year of Sally King who chaired our Community Development Advisory Committee and who had been a director and active volunteer with the SPRC for many years. We will all remember her for her contributions and her commitment to the community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff, I offer special thanks to two retiring directors – to Jack Farnworth for the thoughtful comments and the broad perspective he brought to our Board for many years, and to Reverend John Johnston who chaired our Social Housing Action Committee and who inspired us with his commitment and fervour in addressing urgent social problems. I also offer our thanks for their support and participation to Ray Silenzi and Zaki Ullah, who were unable to complete their terms as directors for various personal and career-related reasons.

In closing, I want to express my personal thanks to Mike Pennock, our Executive Director, to Dick Capling our Past President and to Larry Chambers our incoming President for their support and help throughout the year. Their wise counsel, together with that of our Executive Committee, has made my term as President personally satisfying and fulfilling. With the high calibre of volunteers and staff who direct and carry out the work of the SPRC, I am confident that the Council will continue to play an important role in the future of the Hamilton and District community.

Urmas Soomet

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Council staff time continued to be divided between projects and consultations. The latter function provides assistance to voluntary sector agencies and their funders in research, planning, organizational development and community development. During the past year, a total of 2,941 hours of staff time were devoted to this service in response to requests for assistance from over 200 organizations and individuals. Of particular note, has been an increase in the number of requests from agencies for assistance with their strategic planning processes.

Early in the year, the SPRC embarked on a series of actions which were designed to identify the key service priorities in the Region. Among the key issues identified were affordable housing, child care, "street kids", the service challenges of our increasingly multicultural population. As a result of the process, the SPRC attempted to focus its project activities in these priority areas. In addition to these local priorities, two developments at the provincial level required a concerted response by the SPRC - the publication of the report of the Social Assistance Review Committee and the Provincial-Municipal Social Services Review Committee. Taken together, these two committees represent two of the most important initiatives which have been undertaken with respect to social services in our Province's history.

Affordable Housing: Problems of affordable housing continued to play a central role in the Council's agenda. Most of the effort was concentrated in three areas - co-ordination of service providers, neighbourhood acceptance, and participation in urban/provincial planning initiatives.

With respect to co-ordination, the Council played a leadership role in organizing and supporting a local Access to Permanent Housing Committee in response to the new provincial program. As a result of this initiative, two new housing support services have been funded in the Region - the Housing Help Centre and the homeless women's empowerment project at the YWCA. The Council also assisted in the organization of the Regional Chairman's Task Force on Affordable Housing. In addition to providing a member to this new Task Force, the Council will provide technical support.

In the area of public awareness and neighbourhood acceptance of affordable housing, the SPRC embarked on two key projects. The Social Housing Awareness Project, funded by the Secretary of State, will result in the production of video and written resource material for use in neighbourhoods where new housing developments are planned. The second project - the Housing Awareness and Assistance Program - is designed to better inform the public about the needs and impacts of affordable housing. Funded by the Ministry of Housing for implementation in 1989/1990, this project will utilize the members of the local labour movement to facilitate the acceptance of non-profit housing.

Council staff also responded to the new provincial policy on affordable housing and participated in the City of Hamilton's Housing Intensification Study.

The Council's Committee on Housing and Home Support Care for the Disabled has almost completed their important tasks and a final report is expected in the near future.

Child Care - In response to growing concerns about child care services in Hamilton-Wentworth, the Region asked the SPRC to strike a committee which would bring together the various problems which face this sector.

This committee, which is chaired by SPRC Board member Norm Westbury, is currently in the process of carrying out a salary survey of child care workers in Hamilton-Wentworth; a per diem survey of other Ontario municipalities and a survey of local centres.

Street Kids - During the fall of 1988, the Region asked the Association of Agencies for Treatment and Development (AATD) to establish a task force for the purpose of examining the issue of "street kids" in the Region. This task force approached the SPRC in January, 1989, to assist in a needs assessment and this consultation has resulted in a four month project to be conducted by the SPRC. This project, which will run from May until August, 1989, will include two workers "on the streets" to meet street kids and involve them in the development of an appropriate service response.

Multicultural Service Issues - A major component of our agreement with the Region involves the development of a masterplan for the delivery of

multicultural social services in the Region. This project will be developed in conjunction with a similar effort by the District Health Council to review the delivery of health services to ethno-cultural groups.

Self Help Groups - The Council's continuing interest in the promotion of self-help groups in the Region became more focused during the past year through a study of the needs of self-help groups across the Region. This project, which was funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, included a survey of local groups and a "Self Help Day" which was co-sponsored with the Prevention Network. A report on this project will be published in the fall of 1989.

Employment - Two important projects pertaining to the employability of special needs groups were continued during the past year. Our evaluation of Operation Employability, a special co-operative education program for mentally handicapped secondary students, entered its third year. This project, which is funded by the Innovations Program of Employment and Immigration Canada through the Industry Education Council, represents a very creative response to the unique needs of this group of students.

We have also completed our two year evaluation of the job-training initiatives which are utilized by the Regional Social Services Department. This project has identified key issues in the provision of these services which should result in an enhanced service capability for social assistance recipients.

Social Assistance Review Committee - The report of the Social Assistance Review Committee marked a milestone in Ontario's social assistance system. In 1987, the SPRC had presented a brief to the committee which summarized our position with respect to needed reforms. The subsequent report of that committee, published during the fall of 1988, contained a total of 274 recommendations which represented a major overhaul of our Province's antiquated system of social assistance. The major thrusts of these reforms were very consistent with the SPRC recommendations.

Within months of the report's release, concerns began to grow about the government's willingness to implement these reforms, despite the complete support of John Sweeney, Minister of Community and Social Services. In response to these concerns,

the Laidlaw Foundation funded and organized a Province-wide campaign to generate support for these recommendations. The SPRC agreed to take on responsibility for securing the support of prominent members of the Hamilton-Wentworth business community for these reforms.

On May 18, Mr. Sweeney arose in the House to announce the complete implementation of Phase I of the SARC recommendations. Many of the reforms represent initiatives which the SPRC has been advocating since the early 1970's and there is little doubt that the implementation of these recommendations will result in a more humane and effective system of social assistance within our Province.

The Provincial Municipal Social Services Review Committee (PMSSR) - The PMSSR Committee is a joint undertaking of the municipalities and the Province, which was formed for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive review of the planning, delivery and funding of social services in the Province of Ontario. The release of their initial consultation reports during the fall of 1988 resulted in strong concerns, from across the Province, about a lack of participation by the voluntary sector in the committee's deliberations.

As a result of these concerns, the United Ways of Ontario and the Ontario Social Development Council were asked to form a Voluntary Sector Reference Group to consult with the PMSSR Committee and the SPRC was asked to represent voluntary sector social planning on the Reference Group. This commitment involved four full-day meetings with PMSSR staff and three sessions with the PMSSR Committee, as well as numerous meetings of the Reference Group.

As a result of this activity, a series of specific recommendations about the voluntary sector's role in the planning, delivery and funding of social services, were made to the PMSSR Committee. The impact of these recommendations will become known when the committee's report is released, hopefully in July or August.

When the PMSSR consultation reports were released in the fall of 1988, there were concerns that the committee might develop a standardized model of service planning co-ordination which would then be "laid on" communities. The initial SPRC response had emphasized the need to build upon structures which were already in place in individual communities.

As a result of these concerns, the SPRC convened a local Community Services Planning Group which was composed of representatives from key funders and co-ordinating bodies in the Region. The purpose of this group was to better articulate our local approach to planning/co-ordination and then develop a recommended model for Hamilton-Wentworth which was based upon the further development of our existing structures.

As a result of our work with the Voluntary Sector Reference Group, our model was ultimately presented to the PMSSR Committee as the "ideal" model for the co-ordination and planning of services at the community level. PMSSR Committee members and staff reacted very positively to this presentation. It is, therefore, anticipated that the final PMSSR report will be very supportive of our local approach.

The local Community Services Planning Group is now in the process of refining our recommended local model for the purpose of presenting it to local service agencies, for their reaction, next fall.

Administration:

The SPRC was sorry to lose the excellent services of Angela Houser during the past year. Angela was our part-time Research Assistant and she moved on to the Association of Agencies for Treatment and Development as their Information Systems Co-ordinator. To fill this very significant gap, Rosemary Trowbridge has joined the Council and we are very pleased to have her with us.

This was also the year that the SPRC embarked on its own strategic planning exercise. This process, which involved a top-to-bottom review of the SPRC, its mandate, priorities and structure, will result in a report to the Board of Directors in the fall of 1989.

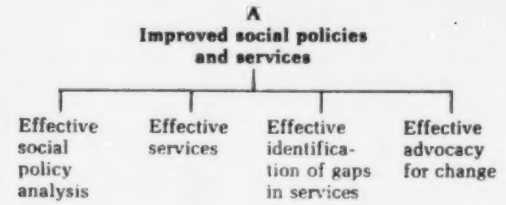
As usual, the staff of the Council have been extraordinary in their commitment to the SPRC and in their willingness to "go the extra mile" that workloads typically require. It has been a great pleasure to work with them over the past year. Their talents and commitment have made my job easy.

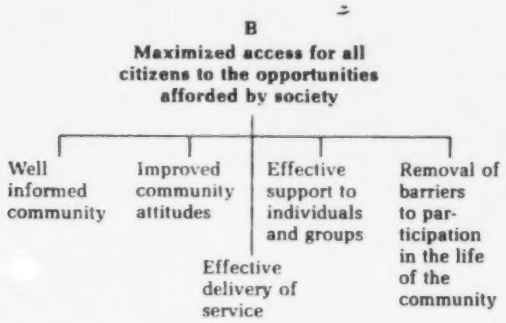
Our volunteers on the Board of Directors and our committees have continued to perform at their usual high levels despite the heavy demands that the SPRC places upon their time and energy. I want, in particular, to thank Urmas Soomet who is completing his second and final year as our President. I have known Urmas, through our mutual involvements in the United Way, for almost ten years and I was delighted to return to the SPRC under his presidency. Despite his own heavy workload as Assistant Corporate Secretary at Dofasco, Urmas was always able to find the time to fulfill his role as SPRC President in a predictably effective way. I hope he will follow the lead of Dick Capling in maintaining a high level of involvement as Past President. His counsel will always be valued and appreciated.

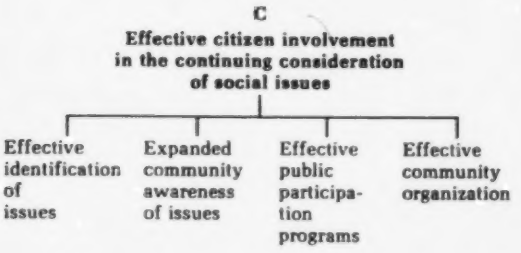
Mike Pennock

MISSION STATEMENT

As an independent voice in the community, the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton and District will act to improve the quality of life for all citizens by engaging in activities which will result in:




B
Maximized access for all citizens to the opportunities afforded by society
Well informed community
Improved community attitudes
Effective support to individuals and groups
Removal of barriers to participation in the life of the community
Effective delivery of service


C
Effective citizen involvement in the continuing consideration of social issues
Effective identification of issues
Expanded community awareness of issues
Effective public participation programs
Effective community organization

STAFF TIME ALLOCATIONS 1988–1989

Staff time allocations in 1988/1989 are presented below. Almost 70% of staff time went into on-line activities (projects, consultations and program committees), with over 1300 hours recorded under minor consultations covering literally hundreds of clients, ranging from information requests to involvement on outside committees. Administration, which includes staff attendance at Board and Executive Committee meetings at which projects and consultations are discussed, consumed just over 25% of staff time during this one year period.

STAFF TIME SUMMARY*
April 1, 1988 - March 31, 1989

	Hours	%
Administration:		
General	1,354.50	17.4
Committee	682.25	8.8
Program Committees	368.50	4.7
Background	372.75	4.8
Community Liaison	330.25	4.2
Consultations:		
Minor	1,311.75	16.8
Major	1,629.15	20.9
Projects:	1,745.75	22.4
	7,794.90	100.0

* As a result of staff turnover in one position, the above represents the Research Assistant's time from April to December 1988 and from February to March, 1989.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Directors and Members of
The Social Planning and Research Council
of Hamilton and District:

I have examined the balance sheet of The Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton and District as at March 31, 1989 and the statements of financial activities operating fund and capital fund for the year then ended. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 1989 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles described in Note 1 to the financial statements applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Hamilton, Ontario — William R. Pearson
May 26, 1989 — Chartered Accountant

NOTE: The information given in this Annual Report is an extract from the financial statements. The complete financial statements, including all related notes to the financial statements, are available to members on request.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Year Ended March 31 1989	Year Ended March 31 1988
REVENUES:		
Support from the public	$246,963	$223,905
Support from governments	64,515	83,875
Other	19,894	6,535
TOTAL REVENUES	$331,372	$314,315
EXPENSES:		
Salaries	244,152	220,528
Employee health and retirement benefits	21,561	22,293
Data processing and professional fees	875	1,981
Supplies	7,875	8,973
Telephone	3,138	5,641
Postage and shipping	4,806	4,542
Occupancy	29,169	30,195
Public relations	130	1,279
Local transportation	3,719	4,248
Conferences and meetings	3,093	3,584
Subscription and reference publications	759	333
Organization dues	818	610
Equipment and fixed assets	3,371	2,872
Rentals	1,135	1,954
Staff replacement costs	600	1,693
Miscellaneous	2,777	2,659
TOTAL EXPENSES	327,998	313,385
Excess of revenues over expenses for the period	3,374	930
Less: Amount payable to United Way	1,733	--
	1,641	930
Less: Transferred to capital fund	1,641	930
	$ —	$ —

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1988/89

OFFICERS

Urmas Soomet, President
Dr. Larry Chambers, Vice-President
Peter Wegener, Treasurer
Michael W. Pennock, Secretary
Richard G. Capling, Past-President

HONORARY SOLICITOR
William N. Callaghan, Q.C.

HONORARY DIRECTORS
J. Nelson Allan
Marjorie Baskin
Judge Thomas A. Beckett
Archbishop John Bothwell
Anthony Butler
Craig Fraser
Hubert Martin, Q.C.
Charles T. McNair
David E. Seldon

DIRECTORS

Term Ending 1989	Term Ending 1990
Marvin Caplan	Judith Bishop
Craig Dowhaniuk	Sandy Bozak
Jack Farnworth	Susan Goodman
Bill Fuller	Dr. John Johnston*
George Gliva	Dorothy Marchesan*
David Godley	Margaret McCarthy
Urmas Soomet	Paul McWhinnie
Kenneth Stone	Julio Ramirez
	Chai Chu Thompson
	Zaki Ullah*
	Norman Westbury

Term Ending 1991

David Binns	Patricia James
Joyce Caygill	Norman Preece
Dr. Larry Chambers	Stacey Shier
David Christopherson	Ray Silenzi*
Peter Wegener	

CONSULTANT
Edgar Smee

ADVISORS

Bruce Mochrie (United Way)	Norma Walsh (Regional Social Services)

*Resigned during year

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES:

Executive: Dr. Larry Chambers, Chairperson
Judith Bishop
Dick Capling
George Gliva
Urmas Soomet
Peter Wegener

Finance: Peter Wegener, Chairperson
Dick Capling
Dr. Larry Chambers
Urmas Soomet

Personnel: Dick Capling, Chairperson
Dr. Larry Chambers
Urmas Soomet
Zaki Ullah*
Peter Wegener

Nominating: Dick Capling, Chairperson
Marvin Caplan
Carl DeLottinville
Bill Fuller
Pat James
Judith Johnson
Jean Jones
Joan McKee
Mike Schuster
Peter Shebib

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Community Development Advisory:

Judith Bishop, Chairperson
Lindsey George
David Godley
Mark Hornell
Basilia Iatomasi
Georges Lariviere*
Hugo Neufeld*
Jenny Rossi
Gil Simmons
Donna Slater
Chai Chu Thompson

Research Advisory:

George Gliva, Co-Chairperson
Chai Chu Thompson, Co-Chairperson
Mike DeVillaer
Lindsey George
Tom Langford*
Rita Lee-Irvine
Andy Korosi
Nick Merola
Peter Pettingill
Marilyn Smith*
Don Trebilcock*
Peter Wegener
Bob Whiting

Consultants:

Dr. Larry Chambers
Dr. John Chong
Dr. Roman March
David Tucker

AD-HOC COMMITTEES:

Committee on Housing and Home Support Care for the Disabled:

Judith Bishop, Chairperson
Mike Cillis
Marlene Cope
Dr. John Johnston*
Barbara MacKinnon
Dorothy Marchesan
Ruth Selby
Bob Smith
Cathi Smith
Norma Walsh
Saul Zemaitis

Advisory Committee on Race Relations Research:

Elizabeth Avetissian
Carlton Glanville
Dr. Harish Jain
Pat James
Ken Stone
Dr. John A. Johnston
Phenom Ma
Dr. Roman March
Leonor Sorger

Child Care Advisory Committee:

Norm Westbury, Chairperson
Judy Binns
Judith Bishop
Sonja Burgoyne
Karyn Callaghan
Lindsey George
Leena Kinanen
Jennifer Powell-Scarek
Judith Preston
Elizabeth Shaver
Gil Simmons*
Stacey Shier
Noreen Toye
John Wegener

Social Housing Action Committee:

Dr. John Johnston*, Chairperson
Julia Atkinson*
Martin Boughan
Rosemary Campbell*
Winnie Capriotti
Vera Chouinard
Dave Christopherson
Dee Elliott
Maggie Fischbuch
Leslie Gibbons
Elise Hopkins
Bill Janssen
Basilia Iatomasi
Dorothy Marchesan*
Catherine Mettham*
Eduardo Navarro
Paula Randazzo
Ken Stone
Bill Thompson
Marta Vandermarel*
Dave Wilson
Brian Woodland

Consultant:

Mark Mascarenhas

*Resigned during the year

STAFF MEMBERS

Executive Director:	Mike Pennock
Research Director:	Gloria DeSantis
Community Development Consultant:	Don Jaffray
Research Associate:	Caroline Ball
Research Assistant:	Rosemary Trowbridge Angela Houser*
Executive Assistant:	Mary Swan
Research Secretary:	Shuri Kocman
Bookkeeper/Secretary:	Caroline Eyk
Volunteer Support Staff:	Kay German Hilda Nelligan
Project Staff 1988/89:	Carmen Bian Bev MacPherson-Mougenot Jane Opie
Student Staff —	
McMaster University:	Ahmed Haneef Lorraine Wilson
Mohawk College:	David Cockett Brian Jennings Mahtab Sultani

*Resigned during the year

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Social Planning and Research Council would like to thank its major funders: the United Way of Burlington, Hamilton-Wentworth, and the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth for their continued support of the work of the Council. A special thanks also to the friends of the SPRC for their donations in 1988/89. We acknowledge the support of the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, and the Secretary of State for special project funding. During the past twelve months, we have enjoyed the opportunity to work with the Industry Education Council and the Metro Toronto Social Planning Council on a contract basis. We are grateful to the Hamilton Foundation for a grant towards the cost of a Laser Printer.